

proud cosponsor of two bills that would provide needed relief and give Congress the opportunity to address a long-term solution to exploding student loan debt when it reauthorizes the Higher Education Act.

The first, S. 953, the Student Loan Affordability Act, introduced by Senator REED of Rhode Island, would lock in the current 3.4% rate for subsidized Stafford loans for 2 years while Congress works on a long-term solution to slow the rapid accumulation of student loan debt. This bill would be fully paid for by closing tax loopholes enjoyed by companies that move American jobs offshore, big oil companies, and the wealthiest Americans.

I am also a cosponsor of Senator WARREN's Bank on Students Loan Fairness Act which would give students the same deal we give to the big banks by allowing those who are eligible for subsidized Stafford loans to borrow at the same rate offered to banks through the Federal Reserve discount window. This is commonsense, and it is fair.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle believe the solution to this current uncertainty is even more uncertainty. Their solution, S. 1003, would produce variable, uncapped interest rates that would hit low-income students the hardest.

Today's votes leave us in the same situation we were in: we need to act to prevent student loan interest rate increases that would additionally burden our students. I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve meaningful legislation that preserves the availability of student loans and the economic opportunities they afford as an option for future generations of Americans.●

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR OBJECTION

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, I rise to express my intent to sustain my objection to the nomination of Lt. Gen. Susan Helms to be deputy commander of U.S. Space Command, Calendar No. 70. I have met with Lieutenant General Helms and discussed my objection with leaders in the Air Force and my colleagues here in the Senate.

Lieutenant General Helms has a record of more than 30 years of distinguished military service, in which she became the first American military woman in space, among other significant achievements. Her career is to be celebrated. However, I continue to have deep concerns with Lieutenant General Helms' decision, while a commander and courts-martial convening authority, to overturn the jury verdict of a military court-martial in which the jury found an Air Force officer guilty of sexual assault. She made this decision against the advice of her staff judge advocate.

With her action, Lieutenant General Helms sent a damaging message to survivors of sexual assault who are seeking justice in the military justice system: They can take the difficult and

painful step of reporting the crime, they can endure the agony involved in being subjected to intense questioning often aimed at putting the blame on them, and they can experience a momentary sense of justice in knowing that they were believed when their attacker is convicted and sentenced, only to have that justice ripped away with the stroke of a pen by an individual who was never in the courtroom for the trial and who never heard the testimony. In overturning the conviction in this case, Lieutenant General Helms supplanted her opinion for that of a jury, the appropriate adjudicators of fact who observe an entire court-martial proceeding. And she did not take the advice of her staff judge advocate, who recommended she affirm the conviction in this case. At a time when the military is facing a crisis of sexual assault, making a decision that sends a message which dissuades reporting of sexual assaults, supplants the finding of a jury, contradicts the advice of counsel, and further victimizes a survivor of sexual assault is unacceptable.

Given these circumstances, I will continue to object to any unanimous consent request to approve Lieutenant General Helms' nomination. I will continue to give great scrutiny to any future nomination of any member of the armed services who has, while serving in his or her capacity as a convening authority of a military court-martial, overturned a jury conviction against the advice of legal counsel.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ALAN CAMERON

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of Alan Cameron, who is retiring from serving as president and chief executive officer of the Idaho Credit Union League.

Alan has skillfully led the Idaho Credit Union League since 2000. Prior to serving as president and CEO for the Idaho Credit Union League and its wholly owned subsidiary League Services, Inc., he devoted more than 20 years to serving as the league's retained legal counsel and lobbyist. Before joining the Idaho Credit Union League, he graduated from the University of Idaho's College of Law, served as deputy prosecuting attorney with the Ada County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and had a private practice.

Alan has given considerable time as an indispensable part of the community and represented the interests of Idahoans at the State and national levels. This includes his service on committees and task forces for the Credit Union National Association and his service as a member of the Federal Reserve Board's Consumer Advisory Council. He also served as treasurer of the Hispanic Financial Education Coalition, treasurer of the Consumer Information Council, and as a board member

for the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Idaho. We are fortunate to count Alan as a fellow Idahoan.

Throughout his career, Alan has been a widely respected and thoughtful leader. I have greatly valued his input and advocacy on behalf of Idaho's credit unions as we have worked together over the years. I especially appreciated the considerable amount of input and hard work that Alan invested into helping me craft and move my regulatory relief legislation. The Idaho Credit Union's release about his retirement included a fitting recognition of Alan's exemplary work:

The League's Board and staff have thrived under Cameron's leadership. His passion for credit unions and their members have been a beacon during a time of increasing regulatory burden and financial upheaval. He is a trusted friend and voice of reason to state government, business owners, regulators and credit union leaders.

Thank you, Alan, for your remarkable service to Idaho and our Nation. I hope that your retirement will provide you with well-earned time to travel with your wife Janet and many good times with your family and friends. Congratulations on your retirement. I thank you for your hard work and wish you a very happy retirement.●

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

● Mr. NELSON. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate the University of Central Florida as the school celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

It has been impressive to watch UCF over the years grow into what is now the Nation's second largest university. The school—one of 12 public universities in Florida—is second in size only to Arizona State.

It is educating nearly 60,000 undergraduate and graduate students this year from all around the world at what is now a sprawling campus located in Orlando, FL. Throughout the years, UCF has increasingly become an integral part of the Sunshine State—and a nationally recognized hub for research.

Located adjacent to the university is Central Florida's Research Park—a 1,000-acre, high-tech complex that fosters innovation through its collaboration of UCF students, private-sector researchers and government agencies all working together in the same location. Together these researchers and students are working on projects in the sciences, engineering, photonics and optics, as well as a variety of health-related fields.

The facilities they use also are home to some of the most state-of-the-art modeling and simulation equipment in the country.

Just 2 months ago, NASA awarded UCF a \$55 million grant to build a satellite that will enhance our ability to study the Earth's atmosphere.

Not only is this award the largest grant in UCF's history, it also makes it